

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 19, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended. Claims 1-40 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14, 17-18, 22-23, 27-29, 31-32, 36-38 and 40 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier (U.S. Patent No. 6,540,363). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Steffensmeier is lacking at least one element of each claim. A prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

The Office Action indicates that Steffensmeier shows each display device being subdivided into a plurality of sections (10a, b, c) as claimed. It is clear in FIG. 1, the 10a is a projection channel. "Each projection channel projects a substantially mutually exclusive portion of an image onto a display area." Abstract. The Office Action is referring to the projection channels as both a plurality of display devices, and wherein each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections. This is respectfully traversed. The projection channels cannot be read in both ways. Either it is a plurality of display devices, or it is a display device subdivided into a plurality of sections. It is not both.

The abstract makes it clear that a channel projects one portion onto the display. It has a single lens that may be adjusted. There is no teaching that such a channel can be subdivided.

The Office Action indicates that the "teachings of Steffensmeier can equally be applied to plurality of display devices that are subdivided into plurality of sections since the controller (8) can easily be reconfigured to determine the number of operative projection channels and determines what portion of the desired image each projection channel is to project onto the display screen as disclosed in (col. 3, lines 38-43)." It appears that a function of the controller is being relied upon to create structure that clearly does not exist. There is no description of the claimed "plurality of display devices, wherein each display device is subdivided into a plurality of sections, and each section is configured to display a sectional image".

Perhaps the theory of inherency is being relied upon. If so, the Office Action has not indicated how the result of subdivision into a plurality of sections necessarily flows from the

channels and ability to determine the proper portions of the image to display in each channel. No structural change occurs that effectively subdivides a channel into sections is shown. If anything, a channel simply displays more of an image if another channel fails. No physical subdivision occurs.

Claims 2-27 depend from claim 1, and clearly distinguish the reference for at least the same reasons.

Claims 28-40 contain similar recitations of a plurality of displays and the subdivision of the displays. As such, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier in view of Itoh et al.(U.S. Patent No. 6,337,724). Since these claims depend from claims that are believed allowable, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 11, 15-16 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier as applied to claims 1, 7 and 28 above, and further in view of Sheridan (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,782). Since these claims depend from claims that are believed allowable, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 19-21, 33-35 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier in view of Schwarzenberger (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,054). Since these claims depend from claims that are believed allowable, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffensmeier in view of Zimmerman (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,281). Since these claims depend from claims that are believed allowable, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

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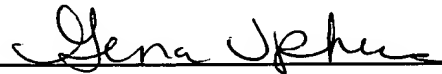
Date 5/19/2004

By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 19 day of May, 2004.

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Name



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